Howard, hasty thanks for your letter and enclosures. Got home from Bud's disasterous convention rather late because I took a source to dinner and learned much and established a few new contacts. If this convention later interests you, and I think it need not because it is merely another example of the futility of the CTIAs and their approach and belief, I made a rbeif memo that will remind me of enough to inform you. Your letter to the Times: first I think you should not be applogetic because your reaction was emotional, as you described it (you know your feelings, I know your letter, it is it not as you describe it) and second it was an excellent letter. There are some things about which it is normal and correct to be emotional. I encourage you not to repress the natural nor to feel ashamed later. Rather be uninhibited. Natural reactions are natural...Note on Sylvia, who is even fatter (I could hardly encircle her as I hugged her at her invitation: She insisted on making what I interrupted to tell her was not necessary, a full apology and admission over our Wecht disagreement. She attributed it to her then state of health. When I said, as we chatted about this later, that I understood about her health and had been concerned enough to get a book and read it, she seemed surprised. As we talked about this, I reminded her of my repeated offers to let her see all I have subject only to her letting me continue to have the right to my own work, she said she understood this but again professed not to be able to recall what she should keep confidential. Right after this she went back in for the Wecht and Chapman talks and promptly, for no need or reason, argued with both about the precise location of the back wound and citied not only my work but the precise source. Did it make any difference before that audience? Was it not enough that both placed it other than and lower than the WC had?...Jerry came up rather apologetically but entirely unrepentantly. He said he wanted to let bygones be bygones, but in agreeing I was pointed in saying I could no longer waste the kind of time I had not would I again engage in such futilities. To be sure he understood I did not want him to call or write again I gave Robert a pointed understanding of it. He appears to have talked Robert into taking his best Zapruder rpint there. There was a showing at Bud's party and was to have been one with an Executive Action trailer but Bux nixed them for Saturday p.m. No purpose was served in this private showing of the kind of materials were have, there was some hazard entailed because of the openness of the party and the kinds of people there, and I had hardly explained this to Robert Saturday when he came back to report the theft of Jerry's attache case by the Skolnick gang...Jerry was silent about the return of those of my files he still has. Or, same old Jerry, FYI... If there is something else I'll come to itwhen I file the accumulation. We enjoyed your visit, as always, share your happines and the earned success , and although we had little time to discuss your letter, which I read right before retiring, I am sure from the smile on her face I saw as I was reading, that Lil is pleased at the success of your baking under his tutelage, if I may call it that. This does remind me: I take exception to your thanks for the slight efforts I have thus far made to help with the promotion of your coming book (remind me when you know more of the schedule and you can make notes of other possibilities): there is not what you describe as a conflict of interest you seem to think I have overcome. First of all it is not conflict. If you must categorise it, I suggest competition is closer. However, this in any sense is inappropriate considering our relationships. Moreover, it is not in any sense new or exceptional. In the summer of 1967, when I was at the booksellers' convention and Sylvia's and Maggie Field's books were due for fall publication, I offered to do what I could, having seen neither work, to promote because I knew both would be limited in what they could do personally. To both supposed publishers. Random House broke its contract with Maggie. My point is that in a decent relationship between those who share principle, there need not be even a feeling of competitiveness. But thanks anyway. HW 11/25/73